

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 L-03 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 LAB-04

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ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

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P 302125Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3696

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, EAGR, CS

SUBJECT: 1976 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: STATE 098056

1. AFTER LISTENING AND RESPONDING IN GENERALLY UNFOCUSSED MANNER TO SEVERAL ISSUES I RAISED WITH HIM (REPORTED SEPARATELY) DURING A MEETING ON APRIL 29, FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF MEAT AND SAID THAT COSTA RICA IS UNABLE TO SIGN THE PROPOSED 1976 VRS AGREEMENT, AND CERTAINLY NOT UNTIL HE HAS MADE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO TRY TO GET AN INCREASE IN COSTA RICAN EXPORTS TO THE U.S., EITHER THROUGH A HIGHER INITIAL LEVEL OR THROUGH A MORE FAVORABLE REALLOCATION ARRANGEMENT. FACIO SAID THAT AT PRESIDENT ODUBER'S REQUEST HE PLANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON AND TRY TO SEE SECRETARY KISSINGER TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER. FACIO EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT THE PRESENT PROPOSED AGREEMENT REFLECTS THE SECRETARY'S VIEWS, RECALLING THAT WHEN HE DISCUSSED MEAT WITH THE SECRETARY IN FEBRUARY, 1975, THE SECRETARY HAD STATED THAT THE U.S. SURELY COULD FIND SOME WAY TO HELP PROVIDE FOR LARGER IMPORTS FROM

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SMALL SUPPLIERS LIKE COSTA RICA. FACIO REPEATED THAT BASED ON

THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS AT DINNER IN SAN JOSE AND ON THE EMBASSY'S SUBSEQUENT AIDE MEMOIRE, HE HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES TO CATTLE PRODUCERS THAT COSTA RICA WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPORT MORE MEAT THIS YEAR AS A RESULT OF THE REGIONAL SHORTFALL REALLOCATION SYSTEM. HE CONSIDERED THIS CASE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR COSTA RICA AND FELT COMPELLED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO TRY TO GET MORE FAVORABLE TREATMENT.

2. I EXPLAINED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD MADE EVERY EFFORT TO GET A REGIONAL SHORTFALL REALLOCATION INCLUDED IN THE AGREEMENT, BUT HAD FAILED. I SAID THAT SINCE THE SAME DRAFT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SENT TO ALL SUPPLIERS AND APPARENTLY WAS LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTED BY ALL, INCLUDING THE OTHER LATIN AMERICANS, I DOUBTED HE WOULD HAVE MUCH CHANCE OF GETTING ANY AMENDMENTS MADE. FACIO INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD TO TRY. HE PROMISED TO LET ME KNOW WHEN PLANS ARE FIRM FOR HIS VISIT SO THAT AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE SECRETARY COULD BE REQUESTED.

3. TWO DAYS AGO, AT THE CONCLUSION OF A LOAN SIGNING AGREEMENT, PRESIDENT ODUBER TOOK ME ASIDE AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE COSTA RICA ATTACHES TO GETTING MORE FAVORABLE TREATMENT ON MEAT EXPORTS. HE SAID THE DECISION NOT TO INCLUDE A REGIONAL SHORTFALL REALLOCATION COMES AT THE VERY WORST TIME FOR COSTA RICA. HE SAID THIS COUNTRY IS TRYING TO FIND ADDITIONAL EXPORT MARKETS AND HOPES IN TIME TO BE ABLE TO DO SO, SMLTHOUGH IT IS HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY EVEN IN SOME PLACES LIKE JAMAICA BECAUSE OF THE LOWER SUBSIDIZED PRICES OFFERED BY AUSTRALIA. MEANWHILE, COSTA RICA HAD TO RELY HEAVILY ON THE UNITED STATES, AND HE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD BE UNDERSTANDING AND MORE HELPFUL.

4. COMMENT: I AM CONVINCED THAT WE HAVE A MAJOR PROBLEM ON OUR HANDS. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE SEEN FACIO TENSE AND VISIBLY UPSET-- AND IT WAS ONLY OVER MEAT. FOR COSTA RICA THE QUESTION OF MEAT EXPORT IS CRITICAL. FURTHERMORE, SINCE THEY BELIEVED THAT SOME REGIONAL SHORTFALL RE-ALLOCATION ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE WORKED OUT, WHAT HAPPENS NOW IS LIKELY TO SERIOUSLY INFLUENCE THE WAY COSTA RICANS LOOK AT OTHER STATEMENTS MADE BY U.S. AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAY WELL AFFECT THIS COUNTRY'S JUDGMENT ON OUR WILL OR ABILITY TO DELIVER ON MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO SMALL, FRIENDLY, DEVELOPING, LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT CAN BE DONE NOW TO PROVIDE SOME MORE FAVORABLE TREATMENT FOR COSTA RICA, BUT I DO EXPECT THAT THE OUTCOME OF THIS WILL BEAR ON OUR RELATIONS WITH COSTA RICA IN OTHER MATTERS.

5. I WILL INFORM THE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS I HEAR FROM FOREIGN

MINISTER FACIO ON HIS TRAVEL PLANS.  
TODMAN

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## Message Attributes

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